

REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST
FOREIGN MISSIONARY
Society.

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1846.

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Report, &c.

The Committee of the Nova Scotia Baptist Foreign Missionary Society present the following report :

In the course of the past year the operations of the Society, although not of a nature to demand a very minute explanation, have been of a highly interesting character. The first direct step in their labours as a Missionary Society may be said to have been taken.— Their beloved Missionaries having sailed from Boston, as was mentioned in the last report of this Committee, have arrived in India, in a land of Idolators, and are now actually on the ground, some part of which it is hoped they may be permitted by Providence to cultivate.

The goodness of God highly favoured them on their voyage, and has attended them in all their subsequent arrangements. Having met with no seriously unpleasant weather, they arrived in the mouth of the Hoogly on September the 19th, in only one hundred and five days from the time they left Boston. Here, a few days were spent in ascending the river, and they reached Calcutta on the 26th.

In this city the kindest reception awaited them on the part of our good brethren the English Missionaries stationed there. They found a home in the house of the Rev. Mr Leslie of the English Baptist Mission, and spent a few days in the enjoyment of the hospitality and the highly interesting Christian society of various religious friends. In the course of this time Mr Burpe mentions having visited Serampore, a few miles distant from Calcutta, a spot consecrated by the lives and death of Carey and Marshman. Here he had an opportunity of seeing the venerable mother of the last named missionary.

On Mr Burpe's arrival in India, he received a letter from the Rev. Mr Stilson, the American Missionary at Akyub in Arracan, earnestly recommending him to visit that province with a view to finally selecting there his field of future labour ; and as this agreed with the tenor of the advice suggested by our respected friends the officers of the

American Missionary Board, he judged it best to comply with the invitation and accordingly sailed, shortly after his arrival, in a Government steamer which plies regularly between Calcutta, Akyab in Arracan, and Maulmain on the Salwyn. A few days brought them to Akyab, when they again tested the loveliness of Christian sympathy in the kind reception they met with from the Rev. Mr Stilson and his family. These excellent friends immediately made arrangements, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, to accommodate Mr and Mrs Burpe, by affording them a part of their house, and receiving them as members of their family.

In these happy circumstances, and with the advantage of Mr Stilson's counsel and experience, our beloved Missionaries commenced immediately the study of the Burman language, which, being spoken in all parts of Burmah, is judged necessary for the Missionary, although he may also need to acquire the language of some distinct tribe, as that of the Kemees or Karens.

In December Mr Burpe set out in company with Mr Stilson to visit the Kyen and Karen stations and villages at Sandoway and the Ramree island, situated south from Akyab, where several tribes are found, among some of whom, it was thought, a mission might be commenced.

At the last date from our beloved Missionaries, they continued to enjoy uninterrupted health. Mr Burpe had then returned from his voyage to Sandoway, without, however, having been able to decide on the location he should chuse.

The society will remember that the difficulty of choice arises chiefly from the necessity or desirableness of selecting some field sufficiently separated from that of the American mission to present to view the character of a distinct enterprize, and sufficiently extensive at the same time to admit of such enlargement as it seems probable this Society might for some years attempt to make.

But as these and other important considerations will best appear in Mr. Burpe's own words, the Committee proceed to lay part of his last letter before you.

After adverting to the intelligence recently received, that Mr. Abbot of the American Mission was likely to resume the Karen mission at Sandoway, which might prevent Mr Burpe looking towards that field, he proceeds:—

"The important inquiry with us was, where in Arracan shall we locate ourselves? Among what people shall we labour? There are in this province,

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Burmans, Mugs, Kyens, and Kemees. As our attention had been directed to the two latter tribes, and as the Kyens were the more numerous people, I left home in the latter part of December, (the commencement of the cold season,) in company with brother Stilson, to visit them at Sandoway. I found them there a very scattered people living in little clusters of 4 or 5 houses, and these so far apart that there were only about four or five hundred people within a day's journey. At Aing, a place about 3 or 4 days journey from Ramree, I was told they were more numerous, and collected together in larger villages, but Aing is so unhealthy that I should have to live at Ramree and travel among them in the cold season only. Having taken into consideration the difficulty of establishing a mission among that people, and also that whilst doing so I should be living among thousands of Burmans perishing in the darkness of heathenism, I decided that it would be better if I went to Ramree to make an effort to benefit the Burman people. Since I have been home I have seen a number of Kemees who live about 100 miles up the river from this city. These people live in large villages, upon the banks of the river and also in the interior of the country. Mr Stilson has done something towards reducing their language to writing. Those that we have seen are principally Chiefs. They expressed a wish to have a missionary come and teach them. The Burman assistants here think we had better go and teach the Kemees, as in their opinion there is more hope of doing good among these wild children of the forest, than among the more cultivated and superstitious Burmans. I must confess I feel at present a stronger desire to labour among them than to stay among the Burmans if we continue in this province. The Burman mission in Arracan is far from being a successful one.

But another question still arises—had we better commence a mission in any part of Arracan? had we not better go to some part of the Tenasserim? To commence a mission here is in some respects very discouraging. Here have been labouring at one time four missionaries and their wives. Some have died, others have gone home on account of ill health, and now the American Board have only one missionary here, and there is some thought of his going to Maulmain, or to some part of Burmah. This is very disheartening to my own mind; brother Stilson feels it to be the same. Brother Comstock, also, whose mind was so deeply interested in the people of this province, in a time of bitter trial, when standing on the wharf, having just bid farewell to his beloved children who were leaving for America, gave as his last message to brother Kincaid, who was also leaving for America, "six men for Arracan." This dear man, a little before he died, said, I do not know but we had better leave Arracan and go to the Tenasserim, if we are not to have more help. My heart trembles while I thus write. Shall Arracan, with its two or three hundred thousand, be left to perish, and the voice of the missionary cease to be heard? Shall the few sheep here be left without a shepherd to encourage them in the midst of their persecution. What will my brethren at home say? Can they send one or two men soon? Could they do so, I would say let us occupy this field. I fear not the result. Let two or three men, full of faith and love, labour on,

here, a time of reaping would come, I doubt not. Please let me know what the prospect is of more coming soon, and give me all the advice you can. I think if you cannot send help soon, and if brother Stilson should remove from here, it would be better for me also to go to some other place. There are other very interesting fields. The Shans present an interesting field. (See Malcom's Travels). They are next to the Chinese in civilization, kind, and so noted for their honesty, that my teacher says, if a Burman wants to act the rogue he puts on the dress and speaks the language of the Shans. Those that are under the Burman government, and near Burmah, are Budhists, but those at a distance have no idols, and are like the Karens in their worship. There are also Burman fields unoccupied, closely in connexion with some of the Karen stations, if a Karen mission cannot be obtained in the Tenasserim." * * *

Mr Burpe then shows that wherever he should finally locate himself, the acquisition of the Burmar language is an essential qualification for usefulness, and closes by a reference to another subject requiring immediate attention in the following words :

"It is as well for me now to say, stay where we may, it will be necessary that a provision be made for us to procure a building spot and to build a house.— Brother Stilson has very kindly given up to us two small rooms in his house, but it discommodates him much, as the house is none too large for his own family.— He will however, cheerfully I think, permit us to occupy the same until the close of the next rainy season, or until October. The cost of a lot and house here would be from 150% to 200%." * * *

With regard to the important question proposed in this letter, the choice of a field, this Committee find it an exceedingly difficult matter to venture a decision. Were these provinces prepared to send out a missionary reinforcement to any considerable extent, the most direct course would seem to be to recommend Mr Burpe to remain in Arracan, on the supposition that the American Board would resign that ground. So great an enlargement, however, must depend on the voice, not of this Committee, but of the united societies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ; and a decision on the part of our missionaries could hardly, perhaps, be delayed a sufficient length of time to give opportunity to ascertain the feelings of the brethren here.

On the whole, your Committee are inclined to suggest, as the most prudent course, to again correspond with the American Board for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in case of Brother Burpe deciding to seek a station in the Tenasserim Provinces, the Board would acquiesce in this, provided their missionaries should desire it, and can point out some locality as a field of labour sufficiently isolated to preserve the operations of their society and ours distinct, and admit-

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ting at the same time of further enlargement; and also, whether they intend to send more missionaries to Arracan in case Mr Burpe should remain there, and this society should reinforce him with sufficient help; and in the mean time to write to Mr Burpe, giving him information of what they have done, and still leaving him at liberty to chuse his station on some new ground, if his mind should incline to such decision before the information obtained from the American Board can be forwarded to India.

On the subject of providing a house, the Committee are of opinion that, as possibly, the usages of the East may make the hire of a house nearly as expensive as the purchase of one, Mr Burpe had better be recommended for the present to hire rather than purchase, if consistent with prudence; but at the same time they are of opinion that the sum needful for the purchase of a missionary property ought to be remitted, to be employed for that purpose by Mr Burpe, so soon as he shall have decided on a permanent station.

The present state of the funds will be seen on reference to a memorandum of the Treasurer's account hereto annexed. From this it appears that the sum now in hand is £344. 2. 2 1-2. As a considerable sum may be counted on to be received at this Association, and as it is to be presumed that funds to some considerable extent are in the hands of the Treasurer of the New Brunswick Board, the Society will see that they are fully able to make the remittances which their missionary requires.

The same prosperous circumstances lead to another important inquiry, the Committee allude to that respecting an immediate, or at least an early increase of the mission.

It will be recollected that very soon after the commencement of the enterprize it was deemed desirable to send two missionaries rather than one. This increase, however, they soon after judged it prudent to delay, until the expense of one Missionary should be more perfectly ascertained, and their funds should seem to justify it.

Under these circumstances the Committee submit to the Society the propriety of conferring with the New Brunswick Society on the expediency of a speedy increase of the number of their missionaries.

In conclusion your Committee cannot but advert with grateful emotions to the goodness of God which has so graciously smiled on their undertaking. Hitherto all has been prosperous and every thing is encouraging. Their beloved missionaries, rapidly advancing in a knowledge of the arduous languages of the East, will soon be in a

condition, in their respective spheres, to bring to the dark minded Burman, or the benighted Karen, Kamee, or Shan the knowledge of the glorious message of life through a Redeemer.

Their success thus far is deeply affecting; for while it awakens gratitude, it reminds also of obligation: our dear Brother and sister Burpe, in far distant Arracan, and the ignorant idolators, to whom they may be the means of bringing salvation, hang on our sympathies, on our contributions, on our prayers.

How solemn is this obligation! how animating the reflection that doing our duty towards them we may be the means of causing light, the light of salvation through Christ, and songs of deliverance and joy to arise from the midst of the deep darkness, the distress and the ignorance of that heathen land. The Lord grant it in His time!

This Report of the Committee is respectfully submitted.

Signed

E. A. CRAWLEY,

Secretary.

At the general meeting of the Association sitting as the Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Baptist Churches of Nova Scotia, at Bridgetown, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of June, 1846, the Rev. Charles Tupper being Moderator, and there being a very large attendance of ministers and messengers, the delegates from the churches, as well as a large and crowded audience, the above report having been read by the secretary; It was resolved that the same be received and published.

The question with regard to the immediate increase of the mission was then entertained, and elicited deeply interesting and animated addresses. Several Brethren were of opinion that the time had come for such increase: others thought that the general financial circumstances of all the objects before our churches requiring pecuniary aid needed to be considered, and to be put in a more healthy condition, before attempting so important an increase. They shewed that efforts would need to be made for special objects that would be likely to check the increase of the missionary funds, and eventually it was de-

cided that this question should not now be further entertained by the society, but be left to the action of the committee.

A delightful harmony of feeling prevailed, and any difference of opinion was uttered in the kindest temper of Christian love. The whole discussion manifested a deep and growing interest in the mission, and a solemn determination to press forward in this work in the strength of the Lord, and in accordance with the dictates of christian prudence.

The Committee and other officers were then re-elected, with the addition to the Committee of the Rev R. B. Dickie of Liverpool, in the room of W. A. Chipman, Esquire, deceased.

A Resolution was also passed expressive of the high estimation with which the Society cherished the memory of Mr Chipman, who so long and faithfully discharged the duties of his office of Treasurer of the society for the department of domestic missions.

REGULATIONS OF THE N. S. AND N. B. FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

I.—No Missionary receiving pecuniary support from the Board shall engage in any secular business for the purpose of personal emolument ; and not at all unless in the opinion of the Committee, the great object of the Mission can be best promoted thereby.

II.—No such Missionary shall appropriate to himself the avails of his labour, or the compensation he may receive for services of any kind, but all avails of labour, and all presents or payments, made in consideration of services performed, shall be placed to the credit of the Committee ; provided that nothing in this article shall be construed to affect private property, inheritance, or personal favours not made in consideration of services.

III.—All Missionaries supported by the Committees shall, with their wives and children, be considered as having claims on the mission funds, for equal support in similar circumstances, the rate of allowance being fixed by the Committees ; and widows of Missionaries, while they continue such, and orphans until the age of sixteen, shall receive the usual allowance.

IV.—In regard to Missionaries who support themselves from the income of their estates, or in any way not inconsistent with their missionary profession, they shall be considered members of the Mission equally with those who receive pecuniary support ; and therefore equally subject to the instructions and general regulations of the Committees.

V.—Every missionary, however supported, shall transmit to the Committees in a journal, or series of letters, a regular account of the manner in which he spends his time, and performs the duties of his profession.

VI.—Missionaries who reside within a convenient distance shall hold stated and occasional meetings, for solemn consultation and

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prayer in reference to the object of their pursuit ; and no missionary shall attempt any thing new or important, involving expense, or otherwise affecting the interests of the Mission but with the advice and consent of a majority of the brethren, as well as in conformity with the regulations of the Committees.

VII.—If any Missionary persist in violating any of the above regulations it shall be the indispensable duty of his associates in the Mission, to give full information to the Committees.

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BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Rev. Edward Manning,
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" David Harris,
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" I. E. Bill,
" William Burton,
" Edmund A. Crawley,
" C. Tupper,
" J. Chase,

Rev. Nathaniel Veditoe,
" S. T. Rand,
" R. B. Dickey,
Dr E. F. Harding,
Messrs J. W. Nutting,
" William Cogswell,
" Walter Reid,
" Simon Fitch,
" John Ferguson.

Rev. E. A. Crawley,
Secretary.

J. W. Nutting, Esq.,
Treasurer.

DR. *The Nova Scotia Baptist Foreign Missionary Society,*

		£	s.	d.
1845				
July.	To paid Printing Report, 1845, (1600 copies)	16	0	0
"	" folding, stitching, covering, etc., "	2	17	6
"	" charge for conveying by coach, to churches, etc.	1	2	6
"	" Bill remitted Gould, Kendall & Co., Boston, for Rev. R. E. Burpe, for Books,	15	13	6
"	" Over credit in last account on monies received from churches, etc.	0	14	10
October.	" Bill of Exchange, \$257.75, remitted for Mr Burpe, to Hon. H. Lincoln, Boston,	64	8	9
"	" Expenses of Delegation to St. John, paid on account expenses of ministers, as per vote of Association.	0	17	6
	" R. E. Burpe's order paid E. Sterns,	2	2	2½
	" Postages, carriage of parcels, etc., etc.	2	10	0
		106	6	9½
	Balance in Treasurer's hands	344	2	2½
		£450	9	0

In Account with J. W. Nutting, Treasurer.

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1845

June 30. By balance stated in Report published,

£ s. d.
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1846

June 20. " Amounts received from various churches, societies
and individuals during past year, items publish-
ed in Christian Messenger,

213 15 6

£450 9 0

E. E.

J. W. NUTTING,

Treasurer.

Halifax, June 20, 1846.

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